

BRUCE A. CHERNOF, M.D.
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

JOHN R. COCHRAN, III Chief Deputy Director

WILLIAM LOOS, M.D. Acting Senior Medical Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES 313 N. Figueroa, Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 240-8101

February 23, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

VARICELLA ACTIVE SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

(All District) (3 Votes)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

- Authorize and instruct the Acting Director of Health Services, or his designee, to accept the
 attached Notice of Cooperative Agreement (NCA) No. 5 U01 IP000020-02 (Exhibit I), from the
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), for the continued provision of the Varicella
 (chicken pox) Active Surveillance Project, for the period of September 30, 2005 through
 September 29, 2006, in the amount of \$308,628.
- 2. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of Health Services, or his designee, to execute amendments to NCA No. 5 U01 IP000020-02, not to exceed 25% of the base award, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, Chief Administrative Office and notification of the Board Offices.
- 3. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of Health Services, or his designee, to approve subsequent NCAs for the period September 30, 2006 through September 29, 2009, for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09, substantially similar to the current NCA from CDC, to provide funding for the Varicella Active Surveillance Project, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, Chief Administrative Office and notification of the Board Offices.

Gloria Molina First District

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke Second District

> Zev Yaroslavsky Third District

Don Knabe Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich Fifth District The Honorable Board of Supervisors February 23, 2006 Page 2

- 4. Delegate authority to the Acting Director of Health Services, or his designee to execute amendments to NCAs for the Varicella Active Surveillance Project for FFYs 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09, which do not exceed 25% of the base award for each project year, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, Chief Administrative Officer and notification of the Board offices.
- 5. Authorize the Department of Health Services (Department or DHS) to fill one new Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position for a Research Analyst I for the Acute Communicable Disease Control Program, in excess of what is provided for in the Department's staffing ordinance, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code, subject to allocation by the Department of Human Resources, 100% offset by CDC Grant funding.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Approval of these actions will provide financial support for the continuation of the Varicella (chicken pox) Active Surveillance Project for the period of September 30, 2005 through September 29, 2006 and for future FFYs 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The total cost for the budget term of September 30, 2005 through September 29, 2006 is \$349,569, offset by CDC funding in the amount of \$308,629, with a County in-kind cost of \$40,940.

Funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 Final Budget and will be requested in future years as appropriate.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

Since 1994, the Department has received Notices of Award (NOA) from the CDC for the Varicella Project. The varicella vaccine, Varivax, was licensed on March 17, 1995. The vaccine is utilized to immunize healthy children 12 months of age and older, and adults.

On February 18, 2003, the Board approved NCA No. U66/CCU911165-09 in the amount of \$267,252. The NCA provided financial support for the Varicella Surveillance and Epidemiologic Studies Project for the period of September 30, 2002 through September 29, 2004. A previous surveillance study established baseline data on varicella disease and evaluated vaccinated and unvaccinated cases prior to the licensure of the new 1995 varicella vaccine, Varivax. The epidemiologic study was conducted to guide the development of policy for screening women of childbearing age for varicella susceptibilities and vaccinating susceptible women postpartum.

In October 2004, the Department received an NCA in the amount of \$223,000 for the continuation of the Varicella Project for the period of September 30, 2004 through September 29, 2005.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors February 23, 2006 Page 3

On September 30, 2005, the Department received an NCA in the amount of \$308,628 for the continuation of the Varicella Project for the budget period of September 20, 2005 through September 29, 2006. Although in a previous Board action approved on December 14, 2004, delegated authority was approved for the Department to accept future NCAs through FFY 2008-09, the amount of this NCA exceeds the delegated authority amount of 30% of the base award for FFY 2004-05.

Exhibit I as been approved as to form by County Counsel.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

Grants are not advertised on the Los Angeles County Online Web Site as a contract/business opportunity.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

Board acceptance of the NCA will ensure the continuation of the Varicella Active Surveillance Project.

When approved, this Department requires four adopted copies of the Board's action.

Respectfully submitted.

Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.

Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

BAC:rm

BDLTCD4048.RM

Attachments (3)

c: Chief Administrative Officer County Counsel Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

SUMMARY OF GRANT AGREEMENT

1. TYPE OF SERVICE:

Varicella (chickenpox) Active Surveillance Project.

2. AGENCY ADDRESS AND CONTACT PERSON:

Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Grants Management Branch, Procurement and Grants Office 2920 Brandywine Road, Room 3000 Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4146

Attention: Grants Management Officer

Telephone: (770) 488- 2738 - Fax: (770) 488-2670

3. TERM:

Project Term: September 30, 2004 through September 29, 2009 Budget Term: September 30, 2005 through September 29, 2006

4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost for the budget term of September 30, 2005 through September 29, 2006 is \$349,569, offset by CDC funding in the amount of \$308,629, with a County in-kind cost of \$40,940.

Funding is included in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 Final Budget and will be requested in future years as appropriate.

5. GEOGRAPHIC AREA TO BE SERVED:

Countywide.

6. ACCOUNTABLE FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Laurene Mascola, MD, MPH, FAAP, Acute Communicable Disease Control

7. <u>APPROVALS</u>:

Public Health: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D., Chief of Operations

Contracts and Grants Division: Cara O'Neill, Division Chief

County Counsel (approval as to form) Allison Morse, Deputy County Counsel

ATTACHMENT B

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding \$100,000

| Department: Health | Services - Acute Comm | unicable Disease Co | ntrol Program | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------------|---------|---|--|--|
| Grant Project Title and I | Description | | | | | | | | |
| Grant Project Title and I | Description | | | | | | | | |
| VARICELLA ACTIV | VE SURVEILLANCE PI | ROJECT | | | | | | | |
| Funding Agency | Program (Fod Grant # | VStata Dill on Cada | 4 | 1 | A | | D 11' | | |
| | Program (Fed. Grant # | | ፣) | Grant | Grant Acceptance Deadline | | | | |
| DPHHS - CDC | Grant No. U01 IP0000 | Srant No. U01 IP000020-02 ASAP | | | | | | | |
| Total Amount of Grant Funding: \$308,628 County Match Requirements | | | | | | | | | |
| Grant Period: FY 200 | o and interpretation reduced | | | | | | | | |
| Number of Personnel Hi | | | | | Part Time | | | | |
| | Obligations Impos | ed on the County V | When the Grant Ex | oires | | | | | |
| Will all personnel hired | Yes | X | No | | | | | | |
| Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? | | | | | | - No | | | |
| Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires | | | | | | No | X | | |
| If the County is not oblig | gated to continue this pro | gram after the grant | expires, the Departm | nent will: | : | | | | |
| a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services | | | | | | No | X | | |
| b). Identify other revenue sources | | | | | | No | X | | |
| (Describe) | | | | | | | | | |
| c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by this grant. | | | | | | No_ | With the second | | |
| Impact of additional pers | sonnel on existing space: | | | | E-14-10-21-10-22-10 | | | | |
| - | | N/A | | | | | | | |
| Other requirements not n | nentioned above | N/A | | | | | | | |
| Department Head Signati | ure | 7 | | Dat | te _ Z | , ZZ, - | ≈ | | |

RESEARCH PROJECT COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT Issue Date: 08/30/2005

Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Principal Investigator: MASCOLA, LAURENE MD

Project Title:

Varicella Active Surveillance Project

CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, PUB HLTH COUNTY/LOS ANGELES DEPT HLTH SER 313 N FIGUEROA ST, RM 808 LOS ANGLES, CA 90012 UNITED STATES

Budget Period: 09/30/2005 - 09/29/2006 Project Period: 09/30/2004 - 09/29/2009

Dear Business Official:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hereby awards a grant in the amount of \$308,628(see ''Award Calculation'' in Section I) to LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES DEPT in support of the above referenced project. This award is pursuant to the authority of 42 USC 241 31 USC 6305 & 6306 and is subject to terms and conditions referenced below.

Acceptance of this award including the Terms and Conditions is acknowledged by the grantee when funds are drawn down or otherwise obtained from the grant payment system.

Award recipients are responsible for reporting inventions derived or reduced to practice in the performance of work under this grant. Rights to inventions vest with the grantee organization provided certain requirements are met and there is acknowledgement of CDC support. In addition, recipients must ensure that patent and license activities are consistent with their responsibility to make unique research resources developed under this award available to the scientific community, in accordance with CDC policy. For additional information, please visit http://www.iedison.gov.

If you have any questions about this award, please contact the individual(s) referenced in the information below.

Singerely yours

/www Sharon Orum

Grants Management Officer

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

See additional information below



SECTION I - AWARD DATA - 5 U01 IP000020-02

AWARD CALCULATION (U.S. Dollars):

| Salaries and Wages | \$183,186 |
|---|---|
| Fringe Benefits | \$80,227 |
| Personnel Costs | \$263,413 |
| Supplies | \$700 |
| Travel Costs | \$1,866 |
| Other Costs | \$200 |
| Federal Direct Costs Federal F&A Costs APPROVED BUDGET TOTAL FEDERAL AWARD AMOUNT | \$266,179 \$42,449 \$308,628 \$308,628 |

Recommended future year total cost support, subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress of the project, is as follows.

03 \$223,000 04 \$223,000 05 \$223,000

FISCAL INFORMATION: CFDA Number: 93.185 EIN: 1956000927A1

Dominat Mark

Document Number: UIP000020A

| IC/ CAN | / | FY2005 | / | FY2006 | / | FY2007 | / | FY2008 |
|------------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|---|---------|
| IP/921018N | / | 308,628 | / | 47,580 | / | 47,580 | / | 47,580 |
| IP/9212127 | | | / | 109,463 | / | 109,463 | / | 109,463 |
| IP/9217980 | | | / | 65,957 | / | 65,957 | / | 65,957 |

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

PCC: / OC: 41.41 /Processed: ORUMS 050823 0347

SECTION II - PAYMENT/HOTLINE INFORMATION - 5 U01 IP000020-02

For payment information see Payment Information section in Additional Terms and Conditions.

To report fraud, waste or abuse see Inspector General section in Additional Terms and Conditions.

SECTION III - TERMS AND CONDITIONS - 5 U01 IP000020-02

This award is based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the CDC on the above-titled project and is subject to the terms and conditions incorporated either directly or by reference in the following:

- a. The grant program legislation and program regulation cited in this Notice of Grant Award. b. The restrictions on the expenditure of federal funds in appropriations acts, to the extent those restrictions are pertinent to the award.
- C. 45 CFR Part 74 or 45 CFR Part 92 as applicable.
- d. The PHS Grants Policy Statement, including addenda in effect as of the beginning date of the budget period.
- e. This award notice, INCLUDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CITED BELOW.

Treatment of Program Income: Additional Costs

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Cooperative Agreement Number: 1 U01 IP000020-02 Approval List Number: CO-038-U05

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

INCORPORATION: Program Announcement Number 04116 entitled "Varicella and Viral Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance and Epidemiologic Studies" and the application dated April 28, 2005 and additional information dated June 6, 2005 are made a part of this award by reference.

INDIRECT COSTS: Awarded indirect costs based on the Cost Allocation Plan approved rate of 23.17 of salaries and wages.

PRIOR APPROVAL: All requests that require the prior approval of the Grants Management Officer must bear the signature of an authorized official of the grantee business office as well as that of the principal investigator or program director and must be received no later than 120 days prior to the end of the current budget period. Any request received without two signatures will be returned.

Prior approval is requested, but not limited to the following request: (1) use of unobligatef funds from a prior budget period; (2) lift a restriction; (3) rebudget funds among the object class categories; (4) change in contractor/consultant; (5) supplemental funds; or (6) change in key personnel.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: The original and two copies of all reports and official correspondence MUST BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE AWARD NUMBER and must be submitted to the CDC Grants Office at the following address:

Peaches Brown Grants Management Specialist PGO, Acquisition & Assistance Branch A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2920 Brandywine Road Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4146

Semi annual progress report is due no less than 120 days before the end of the budget period. The progress report will serve as your non-competing continuation application and must contain the following elements:

- (1) current budget period activities' objectives
- (2) current budget period financial progress,
- (3) new budget period program proposed activity objectives
- (4) detailed line-item budget and justification,
- (5) additional requested information, and.
- (6) measures of effectiveness.

The second progress report is due 30 days after the end of the budget period October 30, 2005. A final progress report, which summarizes the entire project, will be due 90 days after the end of the project period.

A Financial Status report is due 90 days after the end of the budget period, December 29, 2006. The final Financial Status Report and final performance reports are due no more than 90 days after the end of the project period. (Note: The final performance report should summarize the entire project.)

AUDIT REQUIREMENT: You must comply with the audit requirements of OMB Circular A-133, Audits of State, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations, revised June 30, 1997, which rescinded OMB Circular A-128 "Audits of State and Local Governments." Please send a courtesy copy of completed audits and any management letters on a voluntary basis to the following:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Attention: Head, Acquisition Assistance Oversight and Evaluation 2920 Brandywine Road, NE Atlanta, Georgia 30341

You are required to ensure that subrecipients receiving CDC funds also meet the

requirements of OMB A-133 (total Federal grant or cooperative agreement funds received exceed \$500,000). Additionally, you must also ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken within six months after receipt of the subrecipient audit report in instances of non-compliance with Federal laws and regulations. You are to consider whether subrecipient audits necessitate adjustment of your own records. If a subrecipient is not required to have an OMB A-133 audit, you are still required by OMB A-133 to perform adequate monitoring of subrecipient activities. You should require each subrecipient to permit independent auditors to have access to the subrecipient's records and financial statements. YOU SHOULD INCLUDE THESE REQUIREMENTS IN SUBRECIPIENT CONTRACTS.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence regarding this award must be identified with the award number as shown at the top right of this page.

INVENTIONS: Acceptance of grant funds obligates recipients to comply with the Astandard patent rights@ clauses in 37 CFR 401.14.

PUBLICATIONS: Publications, journal articles, etc. produced under a CDC grant support project must bear an acknowledgment and disclaimer, as appropriate, such as: This publication (journal article, etc.) was supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 1 U01 IP000020 from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS: To the greatest extent practicable, all equipment and products purchased with CDC funds should be American-made.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FEDERAL SUPPORT: When issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations and other documents describing projects or programs funded in whole or in part with Federal money, all awardees receiving Federal funds, including and not limited to State and local governments and recipients of Federal research grants, shall clearly state (1) the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money, (2) the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program, and (3) percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that will be financed by non-governmental sources.

INSPECTOR GENERAL: For your information, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Inspector General maintains a toll-free telephone number, 800-447-8477 (1-800-HHS-TIPS), for receiving information concerning fraud, waste or abuse under grants and cooperative agreements. Such reports are kept confidential, and callers may decline to give their names if they choose to remain anonymous.

PAYMENT INFORMATION: Automatic Drawdown

Payment under this award will be made available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Payment Management System (PMS). PMS is administered by the Division of Payment Management, Program Support Center, HHS. PMS will forward instructions for obtaining payments. Inquiries regarding payment should be directed to:

Payment Management System
Division of Payment Management
FMS/PSC/HHS
P.O. Box 6021
Rockville, MD 20852
Telephone Numbers:
Governments: 301-443-9193
All Others: 301-443-9183

To expedite your first payment from this award, attach a copy of the Notice of Grant to your payment request form.

CDC CONTACT NAMES:

Business and Grants Policy Contact Peaches Brown Grants Management Specialist PGO, Acquisition & Assistance Branch A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2920 Brandywine Road

· Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4146

Telephone: (770) 488-2738, fax 770-488-2670

Internet Address: POBrown@cdc.gov

Project Officer Dalya Guris

National Immunization Program, ESD

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

1600 Clifton Road, M/S E-61

Atlanta, GA 30333

Telephone: 404-639-6205 E-mail: dhm5@cdc.gov

Grants Management Officer

Sharron P. Orum

Grants Management Officer

PGO, Acquisition & Assistance Branch A

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2920 Brandywine Road

Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4146

Peaches O Brown, Grants Specialist

Phone: 770-488-2738 Email: prb0@cdc.gov Fax: 770-488-2670

SPREADSHEET

GRANT NUMBER: 5 U01 IP000020-02

P.I.: MASCOLA, LAURENE

INSTITUTION: LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES DEPT

| | YEAR | 02 | YEAR | 03 | YEAR | 04 | YEAR | 05 |
|--------------------|---------|--------|---------|-------|---------|--------|---------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 183,186 | | 132,205 | | 132,205 | | 132,205 | |
| Fringe Benefits | . 8 | 30,227 | 4 | 7,196 | 4 | 17,196 | 4 | 7,196 |
| Personnel Costs | 263,413 | | 179,401 | | 179,401 | | 179,401 | |
| Supplies | | 700 | | | | | | |
| Travel Costs | | 1,866 | | 4,200 | | 4,200 | | 4,200 |
| Other Costs | | 200 | | 672 | | 672 | | 672 |
| TOTAL FEDERAL DC | 26 | 6,179 | 18 | 4,273 | 18 | 34,273 | 18 | 4,273 |
| TOTAL FEDERAL F&A | 4 | 2,449 | 3 | 8,727 | 3 | 38,727 | 3 | 8,727 |
| TOTAL COST | 3.0 | 8,628 | 22 | 3,000 | 22 | 23,000 | 22 | 3,000 |

TECHNICAL REVIEW

ANNOUNCEMENT PA 04116

Application No:

1U01IP000020-2

Technical Reviewer: Sandra Chaves, MD, MSc

Review Date: 6/21/05

Principal Investigator (PI):

Laurene Mascola, MD, MPH

Co-PI:

Rachel Civen, MD, MPH

Institution: County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services

City, State:

Los Angeles, CA

Project Title: Varicella and Viral Vaccine Preventable Disease Surveillance

Amount Requested: \$ 308,628

Recommendation: Approve

Human Subject Concerns: Not Applicable for the surveillance activities proposed for this project. However, Year 02 list of activities includes chart review for herpes zoster related hospitalizations in Antelope Valley Hospital from 1992 to 2004. This project was originally submitted under announcement PA 04116, objective 2, and was not funded under this agreement. The applicant should be aware that no extra funds have been allocated for this study and that, if limited resources are available, priority should be given to the continuation of varicella-zoster virus disease active surveillance. If this project is to be carried out, submission of a study protocol for IRB approval is needed at the local level and at CDC-IRB if we are to be involved in any analysis since this project implies in retrospective assessment of patients' sensitive information.

Description: This is a non-competing continuation application for the above mentioned cooperative agreement reflecting progress report on Year 01 and budget request for Year 02, i.e., from September 30, 2005 to September 29, 2006. The main research objective for this project is to evaluate the impact of the varicella vaccination program on varicella disease and herpes zoster disease, including the impact of disease control and prevention activities. The County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services is committed to continue the active surveillance for diseases related to varicella-zoster virus infection in the Antelope Valley (AV) area which includes the collection and analysis of demographic and clinical data of varicella and herpes zoster infections and related hospitalizations. Activities to assess level of vaccination coverage. and to develop and implement control and prevention strategies for varicella and zoster diseases will also be continued. This application list a number of activity objectives proposed for Year 02, including research projects and/or ongoing manuscripts listed in this application as to be

finished during the continuation of this award. For Year 02, activities in AV surveillance area should be prioritized in order to expand herpes zoster surveillance to include investigation of cases occurring among persons 20 years of age and older. In the currently funded cooperative agreement, no additional funding was provided for this activity. However, conducting case-base HZ surveillance with complete investigation of all reported cases will bring substantial burden to the active surveillance site. Currently, AV relies on a passive reporting of HZ disease. However, despite incompleteness of reporting, in 2004, AV received 390 HZ disease reports among individuals ≥20 years of age. Data on these cases were in general limited to year of report, age (DOB), gender and reporting sites

Evaluation: Project performance is excellent, based on review of activities accomplished, conference calls discussions, and quarterly reports received.

• 1. Understanding of the Project

The applicant has a clear understanding of the project and has successfully accomplished the set objectives for the past 10 years of the Varicella Active Surveillance Project (1995 to 2005).

• 2. Technical Approach

The approach implemented to achieve the objectives of the project is technically sound and has improved over time. In this project cycle, the establishment of the herpes zoster surveillance among individuals older than 20 years of age will be a major challenge. In previous years, researchers at the AV surveillance area would only thoroughly investigate zoster cases among those \leq 20 years of age. Since Year 01, they are committed to increase their surveillance activities to monitor herpes zoster disease among all age groups residing in the AV surveillance area. This shall imply in recruitment of new reporting sites. A goal of 15% increase in the total number of surveillance sites reporting adult herpes zoster cases seems adequate and achievable.

• 3. Capability and Experience

The County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services has demonstrated the ability to conduct such a project in the last 10 years. The site has been successfully conducting research activities that assist us in further understanding VZV and supports CDC to evaluate and develop immunization policies regarding the varicella vaccination program.

• 4. Staffing and Management Resources

They have demonstrated high quality work that contributes to the success of this project. They are now requesting additional funding to hire an extra staff member to take the responsibility of assessing level of current HZ surveillance, identifying additional sites for case reporting, establishing case-based data to be collected, recruiting new sites, training staff in reporting sites, and ensuring complete case-based data collection on an ongoing basis. This is an appropriate request and will increase their capacity and resources in order to implement case-based HZ surveillance in AV.

• 5. Budget

They are requesting a total budget of \$ 308,628 (accounting for \$ 42,449 indirect costs). This is a reasonable budget estimate.

Strengths:

- 1. Objectives are clear.
- 2. Previous years of success in running this project has been demonstrated.
- 3. Data collected will be used in upcoming manuscripts, which will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals.
- 4. Highly qualified staff that have participated and presented in major conferences and data collected form this site were used for innumerous publications.

Weakness: None

Recommendation: We recommend approving the application for continued funding of the Varicella Active Surveillance Project, including additional funds for a new research assistant position. With the anticipation of licensure of a vaccine against herpes zoster disease in 2005, VASP offers CDC a unique opportunity to monitor the potential impact of vaccination on incidence and severity of HZ.